

DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

OFFICIAL ORGAN-HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD.

RECKLESS RALPH TRACKS 'EM DOWN.

By Miss Larel.

On one cold wintry day a few years ago, when the wind was a blowing, and the snow was a falling, a lady reporter visited a collector of the old thrillers up in the fair sized town of Grafton, once known as an old Indian town, called the town of Hassanamisco, which was, I believe, part of the New England Village, as was the name of this place at one time. The name Hassanamisco signifieth, "a place of small stones." This place was set apart as one of John Eliot's "Indian praying-towns." Here he had a prosperous Indian church, which Major Daniel Gookin visited, in company with the apostle in 1674, and of which he gives quite an account of this history, which can be found in any old Massachusetts Gazetteer. But as I'm not going in for history, we must return to the article on Novels.

When the lady reporter arrived at the Cummings Homestead she sure found a real nest of the old thrillers of long ago. There were the old time yellow-backs of long ago, such as the Beadles Dime Novels, and others galore. Dime Tales, Ten Cent Romances, and Dime Novelettes, too. Then there were the balck-and-white's such as Frank Reade, Comic, Wide Awake, Nick Carter and Log Cabin. She said, "Why, here is one of the largest collections in New England." They are stacked against the wall, between chests of drawers, and some are on the floor. In all, there is about 5000 of these thrillers,

dare-devil, vile, he-man literature of long ago.

("With a deep bow the spy faced his captors and said, 'I surrender gentlemen. Had I the proverbial nine lives of our domestic friend, the cat, I would give them all for my country")

Ralph said, "There's nothing like a real hobby, but of course some folks think a real hobby is collecting stamps or old books, or something else, but give me Novels." The lady reporter looked over some of the old story papers of long ago and said, "What's the difference between these and those little books that you call Dime Novels ?" .. "Well," he said, the Story Papers have serial stories, so as to hold the reader's interest from week to week, in order to sell their story papers every week; while the Dime Novels had only one complete story to each novel, with a new story every time they came out. ("Then die like the dog, you are, you pesky varmint" cried Broncho Bill as he jumped from behind a concealing rock and hurled his bowie knife at the crouching brave. There was a flash of steel as the blade cut through the air and then buried itself in the Piute's neck. There was a terrible death shriek that rent the air.. then all was silence.") .. "The first additions to my collection were acquired through the tall tales of these hardy individuals. Mustang Sam, Buckskin Bob, and a host of other old timers."

Back down the narrow staircase, we went, out into the open air, when she bid me goodbye and promised to come some time when she could stay longer, and make a bigger story.

"WHAT NOW, DIME NOVELS ?"

The glorious days of the Dime Novel is by far from the end, as the market would let us know, since it is growing by leaps and bounds as a hobby. Why, only yesterday at the HOBBY

SHOW held at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, one man had a special booth with hundreds of copies of Dime Novels for exhibition and sale. Something that no one ever attempted the year before at the same show held in the same place, not to mention that a booth in this show costs a pretty penny.

The great trouble in Dime Novels is the fact that almost every beginner tries to lower the standard of prices made by the dealers. Of course there are some dealers who raise the price abnormally and it is those dealers who deserve a trimming. Anyway, with the advent of repeal, we see that, like old whiskey, the thrillers of pre-war days have risen to a new and higher standard of value. Let us not be too hasty in applying adverse old-fashioned opinions to a worth-while hobby.

Edwin Brooks.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

F.W.Doughty wrote not only the Old King Brady "James Boys" stories in N.Y. Detective Library, but a good many of those bandit stories without Brady, with D.W.Stevens shown as author. They are all easily recognized by the fine style of writing, utterly different from that of the other authors who took a whack at writing James Boys stories for this Library. None of the old King Brady-James Boys stories were reprinted in the later color cover James Boys Weekly, but all the other Doughty-James Boys stories were, and they all make fine reading. Doughty was the highest-paid Tousey author, receiving about \$150.00 for his short Secret Service stories, even during the latter lean days of the publisher, when other Tousey authors were only receiving not much more than \$15.00 a story. Few American authors enjoyed a better income, than did this King of

all the Dime Novel writers.

.....Charlie Bragin.

The Claude Duval stories were first printed here in America in 1853 to 1857 by DeWitt O.Davenport.

Those that Reckless Ralph Cummings wrote about in the Dime Novel Roundup in the Dec. number, were reprints by DeWitt whose partner, Davenport, had quit him some years after forming the partnership.

The DeWitt O.Davenport editions are certainly rare, as I have seen no copies of them.

....Ralph F. Admari.

This reprint of the original May 1934 "Reckless Ralph's DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP" was made in October of 1958.

Other matter in this issue consisted of advertising of many collectors and dealers plus the two following short paragraphs:

C.A.Stearns ("Fred") wrote the story, "The Garrett's Ghosts" in Youth's Companion of Jan. 12, 1893.

The Life of ORVILLE J.VICTOR will start soon.

The May-1934 issue was VOLUME THREE- NUMBER TWENTY-NINE of the Dime Novel Roundup.

RALPH F. CUMMINGS.

GRAFTON-MASSACHUSETTS.

(NOW OF FISHERVILLE-MASSACHUSETTS)